

THE WIPO REGIONAL MEETING FOR CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ON THE BEIJING AND MARRAKESH TREATIES, NOVEMBER 23 AND 24, 2015

NATIONAL REPORT – BARBADOS

In Barbados the legislative provisions governing copyright and related rights is the Copyright Act (of 1998) Cap.300. There have been several amendments to the legislation over the years with the most recent being in 2006 and the relevant exceptions and limitations have been identified in Part V of the Act as amended. Currently, however, our legislation does not address copyright limitations and exceptions for the visually impaired or for the protection of audio visual performances.

Procedurally, all matters pertaining to treaty accession and matters which require substantial amendments to Intellectual Property legislation are addressed through the Intellectual Property Advisory Committee. This is a Cabinet appointed body of which the Registrar/Director is a member and the membership comprises representatives of The University of the West Indies, the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, Ministries of Agriculture and Culture as well as institutions such as the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation which is concerned with the development of the SME sector, the Barbados Museum, the National Council for Science and Technology, the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as IP Practitioners.

As you are aware, Barbados is required to accede to several WIPO administered Treaties as well as to the Protocol amending the TRIPS Agreement in order to satisfy its trade obligations pursuant to the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EC and CARIFORUM States. On the subject of copyright and in accordance with the EPA, it is a mandatory requirement that Barbados accedes to the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty and these as well as matters pertaining to the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties have been referred to a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee which has been assigned responsibility for matters pertaining to copyright and related rights, for attention.

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee are required and will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

As part of the Work Plan for the Intellectual Property Office for the coming year 2016, I have identified for WIPO's favourable consideration, the hosting of a technical

Mission/Workshop in Barbados for stakeholders on the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties as well as the two WIPO Internet Treaties. This request was also made informally to the Copyright Law Division while in Geneva last month.

Heather A Clarke
Registrar/Director
Barbados
2015-11-18